

MEMORIAL PARK

NOTE from Grattan Puxon, co-author with Dr Donald Kenrick of *Destiny of Europe's Gypsies*, first comprehensive history covering the Nazi genocide against the Romani people.

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Permission is being sought from the parents of Johnny Delaney, who was murdered in a racial attack in Cheshire last year, to name this Memorial Park after Johnny.

We have been advised that the creation of the temporary Memorial Park in no way contravenes the existing injunction taken out by Epping Forest District Council. We are asking the Council not to disturb this ground which we hold sacred to the memory of the 500,000 Roma who died in the Holocaust who have fallen victim to present-day racism.

The Park consists of:

AUSCHWITZ

Name plaques for 115 Roma, including children born in the camp, from among some 23,000 who died in Auschwitz. The Zigeunerlager, or Gypsy camp, was *liquidated* on the night of 2 and 3 August 1944.

JASENOVAC

Possibly as many as 50,000 Roma died in Jasenovac, the biggest extermination camp in wartime Yugoslavia. Here are the names of 96 children of all ages who died in this terrible place.

KOSOVO

The names of 132 Roma murdered or missing (presumed dead) during ethnic-cleansing in Kosovo. Some 10,000 Romani homes have been destroyed .

CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA, SERBIA and BULGARIA

The names of 69 present-day victims from these countries have been included from among 300 so far documented for the period 1989 to 2004 by the Trans-European Roma Federation. The total is believed to be nearer 600 and increases every month.

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In dedicating this MEMORIAL PARK to memory of the Romani victims of the Holocaust and present-day-ethnic cleansing, we wish to make an 11th hour appeal to Epping Forest District Council not to evict Harry and Linda Smith, who have lived here on their own land at Paynes Lane for almost 15 years.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the destruction of the Gypsy Camp at Auschwitz, an event commemorated by Roma all over Europe. Here in the UK on 1 August, some 4,000 people attended the Holocaust service organized by the Life & Light Movement at Penrith, in Cumbria.

Over 1,000 signed a Petition supporting the points below.

We are particularly concerned about the worsening situation of Romanies in Epping, which has been the traditional home of many families over past centuries. We were here when 450 years ago in 1554 a law was issued making it a hanging offence just to be a Gypsy.

Three members of the BNP were elected to Epping council at the last election pledged to "evict Gypsies from private land."

Already most families have been forced to leave Paynes Lane. One of them, Peter Robb, is now serving 28 days in Pentonville, having bought another piece of land at Colney Hatch – and refusing to leave that because, like some 3,000 other Travelling families, he had nowhere else to go.

We appeal to the authorities at Colney Hatch not to imprison his wife Mary and their children, who are still on their land there.

Moreover, we ask the Government to act on the recommendations of our Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition – and make it a duty for local councils 1) to designate land for private caravan parks 2) to provide parks and transit pitches for renting to Travellers.

In the meantime, we support the call by the GTLRC for a MORATORIUM on any further evictions until the necessary legislation is passed.

A Human Rights Monitoring Group is being established to monitor and report on evictions around the country to make available written and video evidence to the Government and NGOs linked to the UN Commission on Human Right

INVITATION
TO
DEDICATION
OF
ROMANI
HOLocaust
MEMORIAL FIELD

"REMEMBERING ALL
OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS"

SUNDAY
22 AUGUST
12 NOON

PAYNES LANE CARAVAN PARK
Lower Nazeing
Essex

DIRECTIONS: from M25 take exit 25 to A10
north to Broxbourne then B road to Nazeing.
Nearest station BROXBOURNE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
01206 523528